



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 26 2006

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor of Connecticut
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

In a speech yesterday, President Bush outlined his plan to confront high gasoline prices. As part of his four-part plan, the President directed me to use all available authority under the Clean Air Act to grant fuel waivers that could relieve critical fuel supply shortages that may exist.

As provided for in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Clean Air Act authorizes me, in consultation with the Department of Energy, to grant waivers of motor vehicle fuels standards to alleviate critical fuel supply shortages if specified criteria are met. I am writing to assure you that EPA stands ready to aggressively implement the President's directive.

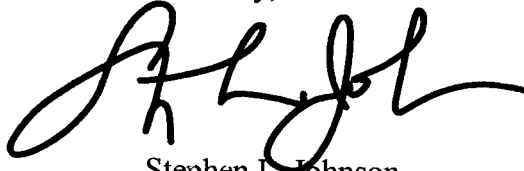
The Clean Air Act specifies that any waiver must be temporary and based on a determination that extreme and unusual fuel or fuel additive supply circumstances exist in a State or region. As Administrator, my determination regarding fuel waivers must be consistent with the statutory criteria and based on the facts concerning the supply and availability of fuel. Therefore it is essential to this process that EPA receives the most up-to-date information available on fuel supply conditions in a State or region that is requesting relief. If you determine that gasoline supply shortages are occurring in your State and that a waiver of fuel standards may be appropriate, please contact me immediately.

The President also indicated that if I find that I need more authority to address this situation, we would work with Congress to obtain such authority. In this regard, information pertaining to the fuel supply situation is vital to the process of addressing any supply shortages that may exist in your State.

Finally, the President directed me to convene a task force of Governors on boutique fuels. The mission of this task force will be to review the variety of requirements related to fuels and to increase cooperation among the Federal Government and States on gasoline supply decisions. The task force will be responsible for devising recommendations for the President that enhance flexibility in the fuel distribution system and improve fuel fungibility.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Pamela Luttner in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at (202) 564-7178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Johnson', with a large, stylized initial 'S' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Stephen L. Johnson